

Nov. 20. 2012 12:02PM

KENNY MARCHANT
24TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
SELECT REVENUE MEASURES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL SECURITY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4324

No. 0209 P. 2

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November 20, 2012

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing to you regarding CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51; DA 12-1644, Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities; Structure and Practices of the Video Relay Service Program.

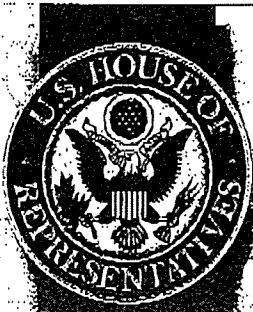
I appreciate efforts by the FCC to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse in programs under the purview of the commission. As the FCC reviews these docket numbers, I respectfully ask that, in the process of implementing any potential changes, those who depend upon video captioning not be adversely affected. The Video Relay Service (VRS) is often the only form of communication for many hearing impaired Americans. Allowing for fair competition of choice and easy-to-use access by the end users of this service should be maintained. I would appreciate the FCC working with the deaf and hearing impaired community before any VRS changes are made. It is important that we do not potentially disrupt the video captioning service for those that depend upon it and not stifle future innovation.

Thank you for your review of this letter. Should you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please feel free to contact me, or my Legislative Director, Scott Cunningham, at 202.225.6605 or scott.cunningham@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,


Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress

CGB
TRS
1409



U.S. Congressman

KENNY MARCHANT*Representing the 24th District of Texas*

1110 Longworth HOB | Washington, DC 20515 | 202-225-6605 | 202-225-0074 fax

Fax Cover SheetDate: 20-Nov-12To: FCC Leg Affairs

CC: _____

Fax: 418. 2806

Subject: _____

Pages: 2 (including cover sheet)

From:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kenny Marchant,	U.S. Representative (TX-24)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brian Thomas,	Chief of Staff
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scott Cunningham,	Legislative Director
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Moy,	Communications Director
<input type="checkbox"/>	James Williams,	Senior Policy Adviser
<input type="checkbox"/>	John Deoudes,	Legislative Correspondent
<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Vega,	Legislative Correspondent
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shane McDonald,	Staff Assistant
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	_____

Comments: _____



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

January 22, 2013

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Kenny Marchant
U.S. House of Representatives
1110 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Marchant:

Thank you for your letter regarding the reform of the Video Relay Services program. I appreciate your interest in this matter and am pleased to provide the enclosed letter on this issue from the Acting Chief of the FCC's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau.

If you have any additional questions or need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Julius Genachowski



Federal Communications Commission
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
Washington, D.C. 20554

CGB

The Honorable Kenny Marchant
United States House of Representatives
1110 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 22, 2013

Dear Representative Marchant:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Public Notice (released October 15, 2012, by the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau) which sought comment on the structure and reform of the Video Relay Service (VRS) program and on the proposed reimbursement rates for VRS. This Public Notice followed a prior set of proposals to structurally reform and improve VRS, issued on December 15, 2011. I share your support for VRS, which has become a critical communications tool for many people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

In June 2010, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) began a comprehensive review of the rates, structure, and practices of the VRS program. The Commission's goal in beginning that review, and ever since then, has been to sustain and improve the VRS program, which for many years had been beset by waste, fraud, and abuse and by compensation rates that had become inflated well above actual costs. In recent years, the Commission has taken significant steps to protect the VRS program's integrity and increase its efficiency. These reforms are intended to ensure that the program continues to support communication services that offer functional equivalence to all eligible users and, at the same time, that the program is as immune as possible from the waste, fraud, and abuse that could threaten its viability. The October 15th Public Notice is the next step in our ongoing reform efforts.

Commission staff from the offices and bureaus involved with this rulemaking have been in dialogue with representatives from various deaf and hard of hearing consumer organizations. Further, these organizations and others, along with thousands of individual consumers, have filed public comments in response to the October 15th Public Notice. We have assured them, as I assure you, that any reform undertaken by the Commission will not adversely affect the service that has proven to be valuable to deaf and hard of hearing Americans.

The Commission is dedicated to fulfilling the vision of Congress for an effective and successful nationwide telecommunications relay service, and I appreciate your continuing interest in this very important matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Kris Monteith

Acting Chief

Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau